



GILMANS

GLOUCESTER ARCADE

CHINA MAIL



THE WEATHER—Moderate Easterly winds. Fair, becoming cloudy later.

No. 35699

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1953.

Price 20 Cents

COMMENT OF THE DAY

Hopeful Sign

U.S. ACCEPTS RUSSIAN OFFER Ready To Join In Atomic Negotiations DULLES' PLEDGE

Washington, Dec. 21.

The United States tonight accepted Russia's proposal to join in negotiations on President Eisenhower's dramatic plan for the peaceful international development of atomic energy.

The Secretary of State, Mr John Foster Dulles, pledged that this nation will "explore every possibility of securing agreement and bringing President Eisenhower's historic proposal into the realm of creative action."

But Mr Dulles also said the Russians did not seem to have "caught the spirit of President Eisenhower's proposal" when they complained that it would "not remove the threat of atomic weapons." He said Mr Eisenhower's plan actually is intended as a first step in that direction.

THE essence of the Eisenhower plan is that the Powers who possess the secrets of atomic energy should, step by step, put into effect a method for its eventual international control. To achieve this, Mr Eisenhower suggests that in the first place existing stocks of atomic and fissionable materials should be placed in a pool and made available to the world for peaceful purposes. The Soviet reaction to this idea suggests that they are suspicious of the motives behind it. They continue to make use of the familiar innuendo that the "imperialists" intend to retain atomic war weapons for the purpose of keeping the world in a state of suspense and agitation. Therefore the first task of the Western Powers when the confidential talks begin will be to convince the Russians that there is no ulterior or hidden motive behind the Eisenhower plan; that it is a genuine attempt to solve the dangerous problem of atomic control; and that it is the most realistic way of eventually bringing atomic energy in all its forms under appropriate international supervision.

ISSUE EVADED

The Russian statement, which Mr Bohlen relayed to the State Department here, asked for further explanations of the Eisenhower plan and said anew that international control of atomic weapons is necessary to world peace.

Once again, it evaded the issue of international inspection which the United States insists be a part of any world atomic control programme.

Russia's 5 New Deputy Premiers

London, Dec. 21. Moscow Radio tonight announced the appointment of five new Deputy Premiers.

The new Deputy Premiers are:

M. Z. Zaburov, Chairman of the State Planning Commission.

M. G. Pervukhin, Minister of Electric Power Stations and Electrical Industry.

I. F. Teyosyan, Minister of Metallurgical Industry.

V. A. Malyshev, Minister of Medium Machinebuilding.

A. N. Kosygin, Minister of Manufactured Consumer Goods.

Present Deputy Premiers appointed to the Soviet Government on March 6 last are M. Molotov, who is also Foreign Minister, Marshal Bulganin, who is also Minister of Defence, M. Kaganovich. At that time Berlin, now facing trial as a traitor, was also made a Deputy Premier.

A Deputy Premier in Russia is "Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR."

The exact functions of a Deputy Premier have never been clearly defined. In theory he can preside at a session of the Council of Ministers in the absence of the Chairman (which formerly was Stalin, and now is Georgi Malenkov).

In practice, however, one of two or three senior Vice Premiers would be in the chair at a Cabinet session if Malenkov were not there. This senior Deputy today is Mr Vyacheslav M. Molotov.

The Ministers whose new appointment were announced tonight made a gain in status and authority as a consequence of becoming Vice Premiers.

The new Ministers are mostly younger men who were regarded (Contd. on Back Page, Col. 1)



M. Laniel Offers To Withdraw

French Presidency Deadlock

Versailles, Dec. 21. Premier Joseph Laniel, losing ground steadily in his bid for the French Presidency, said tonight he would withdraw from the race if all government Parties agreed on a compromise candidate.

M. Laniel made the statement shortly after leaders of French political Parties were summoned in an effort to break the Presidentialial deadlock by agreeing on just such a candidate.

"I am ready to retire if I can get all Parties of the majority (government) to agree on the name of a candidate who can realise a union of Republicans," said M. Laniel.

Premier Laniel lost ground steadily today in his bid for the French Presidency and all Parties were summoned to select a compromise candidate to "save the Republic".

A roar of applause came from weary National Assembly Deputies and Senators as the chairman, M. Andre Le Troquer, called on leaders of all political Parties to meet him tomorrow.

The duty of Left, Right and Centre, he said, was to "decide on a man to save the Republic".

LOSES VOTES

The announcement came after an unprecedented 10th ballot had failed to resolve the deadlock. M. Laniel slipped further away from his goal for the second straight time and appeared incapable of amassing the necessary majority to win the post.

M. Laniel won 413 votes on the ninth ballot this morning and only 392 on the 10th. He had gained strength steadily from the fourth ballot onward to the eighth, when he captured 430.

His strongest competitor, Socialist Marcel Edmond Naegelen, also lost ground to day. M. Naegelen received 358 votes on the 10th ballot and 365 on the ninth. On the eighth ballot last night he had won 361.

Before the 10th ballot, the Democratic and Social Resistance union announced that its 32 members would not participate. The abstention reduced the absolute majority needed on the 10th ballot to 434, or 42 more than M. Laniel received.

United Press.

CRIMINALS PUT ON XMAS PLAY

Paris, Dec. 21. International air companies today struggled to re-route thousands of air passengers who were held up here for the third day running by France's aerodrome ground staff strike.

Hundreds of the passengers travelled to Britain, Holland and Switzerland by train instead of aircraft. Others left French territory by train and bus to board planes for the United States from Brussels.

A few air lines, including British European Airways, continued air services, reduced in some cases, from the crippled Orly and Le Bourget airports.

The strike of radar and control tower radio operators, announced for a "limitless duration," was launched on Saturday morning. The men are refusing to work on the Lyons, Bordeaux, Marseilles, Algiers and Nice airports.

The strikers have promised, however, to aid aircraft in trouble over French soil.

The workers were at their posts today—they have been regulated by the Government—but apart from listening to planes in distress, they did not operate their equipment.

—Reuters.



Picture above shows the burnt-out fuselage of the American Navy plane which crashed at Kai Tak this morning.—Staff photographer.

PLANE CRASH AT KAI TAK THREE PERSONS INJURED

Three passengers were injured, one seriously, when a United States Navy P2V Neptune aircraft from Sangley Point, Philippine Islands, crashed on runway 013 while landing at Kai Tak at 9.35 this morning.

There were altogether 14 persons on the plane.

The aircraft crashed and skidded for some 400 yards before it stopped and burst into flames.

COURAGEOUS ACTION

Kuala Lumpur, Dec. 22. A Malay Home Guard, Jafar Bin Salleh, attacked five armed Communists.

His strongest competitor, Socialist Marcel Edmond Naegelen, also lost ground to day. M. Naegelen received 358 votes on the 10th ballot and 365 on the ninth. On the eighth ballot last night he had won 361.

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United Press.

The Communists then made off.—China Mail Special.

Bridge Spotted On The Moon

London, Dec. 21. A mammoth bridge 20 miles long and more than 2,000 feet wide has been discovered on the moon, Dr H. Percy Wilkins, Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and Director of the lunar section of the British Astronomical Association said here tonight.

Speaking over the BBC, the scientist described the lunar bridge as a strange object which seemed artificial. It has one arch suspended between two mountains and it dominates the plain from a height of 1,500 yards. —France-Press.

The Bishop of Plymouth, the Rev. Norman H. Clarke, said the way in which the play was received by the hardened outlaws "emphasises the message it has for all the community."

"I have seen dozens of nativity plays in cathedrals, churches and village halls—but never have I witnessed one performed before a more reverent audience," he said. "It forces one to reflect on many things."

The play described how the Wise Men followed a star which led them to the stable in which Jesus was born. A convict choir sang Christmas carols behind the stage as background music.

The stage backdrop rose to allow viewers to see a crib set before the altar. The altar was decorated with holly which the convicts had gathered from Dartmoor's gloomy, mist-covered moors. —United Press.

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SHOWING
TO-DAY KING'S MAJESTIC
Commoning
To-morrow
AT 2.30—5.15—7.20 & 9.30 P.M.



PRINCESS

FINAL SHOWING TO-DAY

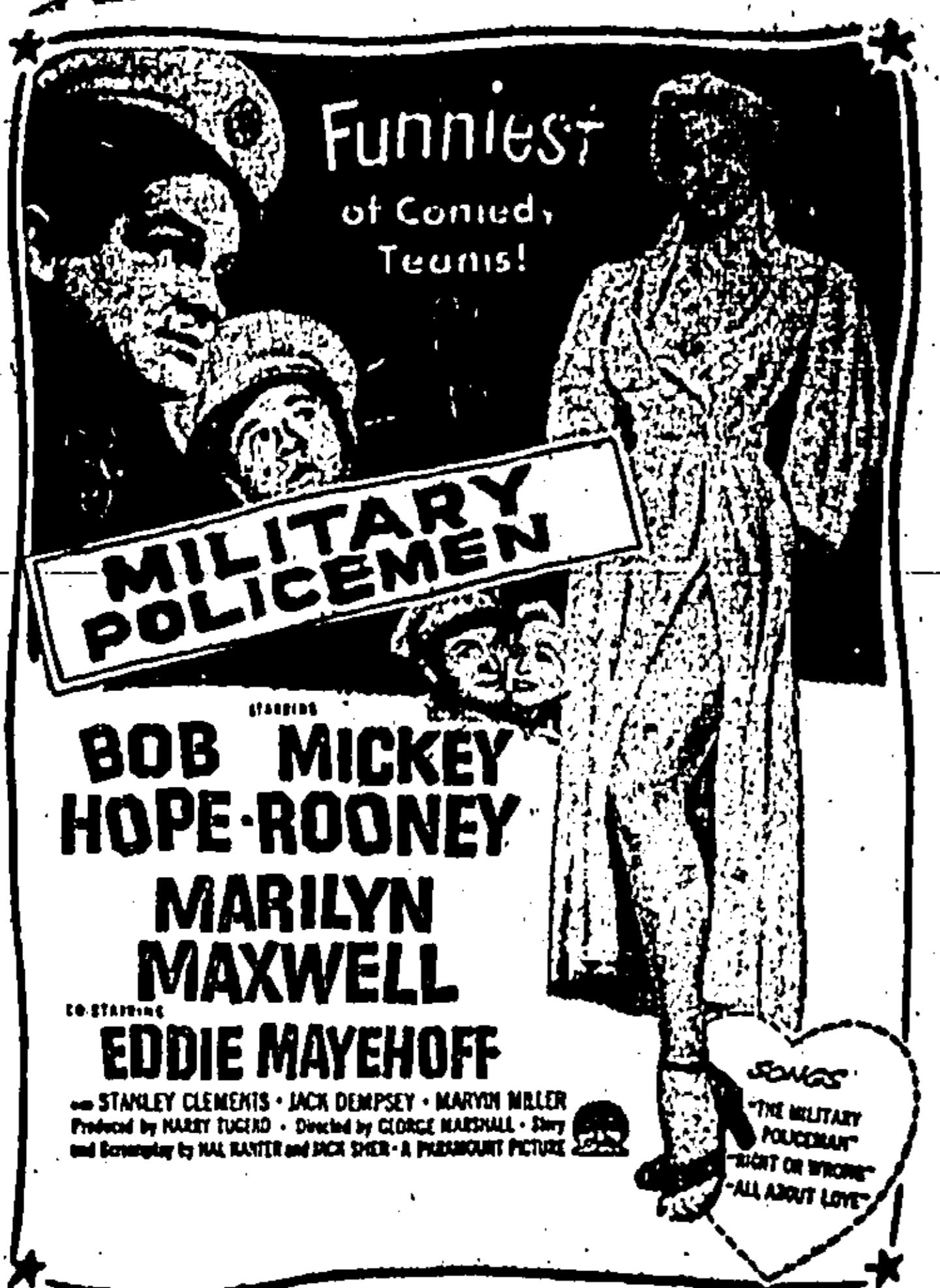
AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.



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ON PANORAMIC SCREEN

M-G-M's MUSICAL ROMANCE OF RIO!



COMMENCING DEC. 24 (THURSDAY)



China Unlikely To Resume Korean Fighting, Says Dean

Washington, Dec. 21. The State Department today denied reports that special Ambassador Arthur Dean had reported a warning by the Chinese Communists that they were going to resist with force any Indian attempt to turn loose unrepatriated prisoners on January 22.

A State Department spokesman said Mr Dean, who had been trying to arrange a political conference with the Communists in Korea, believed the Chinese had no intention of resuming hostilities or threatening the Indian guard.

Mr Dean is now in Washington, having returned here last week for consultations. He left behind in Korea his deputy, Mr Kenneth Young, Chief of the North-East Asian section of the State Department. Mr Young would remain in Korea to be immediately available in the event-of-talks with the Communists resuming.

Big Farewell For A Lucky Baby

London, Dec. 21. Baby Boko, the surviving Siamese twin from Nigeria, was on her way home today and hundreds of rain-soaked Londoners turned out to give her a rousing farewell.

It took Mrs Veronica Davies, her 24-year-old mother, more than half an hour to get through the crowds.

Eventually she and the baby entered a limousine and drove off to the airport. A great cheer from the crowd followed them as they began the first stage of their journey to Kano, Nigeria.

Mrs Davies said the staff and Professor Aldred "today have given Warboko a new life. I will never be able to thank them enough".

The Evening Standard, in its editorial today, also paid tribute to those involved in giving Boko "a new life".

RACIAL PREJUDICE

The Standard, which recently has been distressed by the racial prejudices of some London hotels which refuse accommodation to coloured people, said in its editorial: "At Hammersmith Hospital the best brains and the best resources, skill and attention of the highest order were good enough for Mrs Davies' children. And in the neighbouring borough of Kensington half the second rate hotels and more of the first rate ones would ordinarily have seen Mrs Davies in Nigeria sooner than give her a bed for the night..."

"Every second of this drama was heightened by the stark contrast between white science and its intolerance between the honest and impulsive recognition of human need on the one hand and hateful prejudice and condescension on the other... Boko will grow to womanhood a living testimony of white enlightenment." — China Mail Special.

EMPIRE MAJESTIC FINAL SHOWING TO-DAY

AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.
& 9.30 P.M.

RAW RAMPAGING EPIC

OF THE
RAILS
THAT
RIPPED
THE
WEST
WIDE
OPEN

KANSAS PACIFIC

WITH STERLING HAYDEN
ALICE GREEN

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ONE SHOW ONLY

India's Super Production

"JOHARI"

Starring GEETA BALI

Commencing on Friday,

25th Dec. At 12.00 Noon

At The

Cambury

BOOKING NOW OPEN

In London the authoritative quarters announced that Britain would support the majority of the Assembly if they sought an extraordinary session to study the Korean question, especially on the issue of non-repatriated prisoners of war.

It is believed however that Britain would not be in favour of holding this session before the end of January.

However Foreign Office sources said today they knew nothing of any proposal by the UN Assembly President Madame Vijaya Pandit to call a special Assembly session on January 15 to study the Korean question.

Earlier it had been reported that India intended to ask for a General Assembly meeting to demand down directives to General K. S. Thimayya, Chairman of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission whose mission in Korea expires on Jan. 23 according to the terms of the armistice.

BRITISH VIEW STATED
Britain believes that explanations to prisoners should end on Dec. 23 and the prisoners released on January 22, whether the political conference is held by that date or not.

The British view was reasserted by the Foreign Secretary, Mr Anthony Eden, in the Commons on Dec. 17, and repeated by Minister of State, Mr Selwyn Lloyd on the same day to Mr Krishna Menon, the chief U.N. delegate of India who was then passing through London.

An authoritative source said that Britain, like France, would like the American chief delegate Mr Arthur Dean's assistant, Mr Kenneth Young, to carry on in his place until he returns to Korea, in case the Chinese and North Koreans wished to make fresh proposals. — France-Presso and United Press.

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ADVERSE BALANCE IN MALAYA
Singapore, Dec. 22. Malaya continued to import more than it exported during November, official figures showed today bringing the country's total adverse balance for the first 11 months of the year to US\$87,518,000.

During November, Malaya and Singapore imported goods totalling US\$903,654,000 and imported \$890,335,000.

Trade observers attributed the drop in November's trade partly to lower rubber and tin prices and the seasonal fluctuations which normally increase imports before Christmas. — United Press.

US Airman Refuses To Pay

London, Dec. 21. An American airman who refused to obey a Court order to support the illegitimate child of an English girl brought show-down today in the High Court of England which may affect the rights of all GIs in Britain.

The High Court agreed to hand down a ruling in its session next month on whether airman Robert Warren can be arrested on the order of an English court for failing to pay.

An American spokesman said that in the past the English Courts had ruled that such cases were a matter for American authorities.

Mrs Mary Josephine Smith of Tranmere, England, claimed that Warren was the father of her baby. Warren, who is married and lives in Liverpool, claimed he was not.

A letter from American Air Force authorities, read in the High Court this morning, said he could not be forced to pay unless an American Court decided he was the father. — United Press.

The agency said the presence of life at depths ranging from 8,000 metres to 10,000 metres—"the greatest encountered in oceans"—had been proved by the expedition.

Another "unknown fish," caught by the expedition was a small fish with luminous dots all over its body, named gonostomus vittatus, in honour of the expedition ship.

Professor Rass said this discovery was striking because deep-water fish hitherto known had been dark coloured. The fish was the colour of bronze.

A deep sea eel with a very long thin body and long jaws, resembling the beak of a snake, previously unknown to ichthyologists, was also among the expedition's catches, Rass added. — China Mail Special.

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TO-NIGHT TO DISTRIBUTE

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from 12 noon

at the CIRCUS GROUNDS, Causeway Bay.

BRING YOUR KIDDIES ALONG

TO MEET SANTA CLAUS TO-NIGHT.

Anchor Caught

A "Duck"

Tokyo, Dec. 21. American navy quarters reported today an American transport in Korean waters, the Dianchenko, caught a "duck" with its anchor.

The duck was a seven-ton amphibious vehicle, nicknamed the duck, which was presumed to have lain at the bottom of the harbour at Inchon since American landings there in 1950. — China Mail Special.

New Type Of Fish:
Say Russian Scientists

London, Dec. 21. Russian scientists today claimed to have found "a new type of fish" which is "scaleless, jolly-like with a round pinkish white head."

It was caught at a depth of 7,250 metres between Kuriles and the Kamchatka Peninsula during an oceanographic expedition organised by the USSR Academy of Sciences, according to Tass, the Soviet news agency.

The fish was about 25 centimetres long.

Tass quoted Professor Theodore Rees, who was in charge of the ichthyological studies of the expedition, for the details.

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QUEEN'S & ALHAMBRA

TODAY & TOMORROW

"Between Wife and Husband"

Yung Hwa's Comedy of the Year.

Introducing Miss Chan Yuan Hwa

A Chinese Picture

• OPENS. THURSDAY •

NEW GLORY FOR GARY!

GARY COOPER BARBARA STANWYCK ANTHONY QUINN RUTH ROMAN

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WOMAN THEY ALMOST LYNNED

A REPUBLIC PICTURE

starring John LUND Brian DONLEVY Audrey TOTTER Joan LESLIE

Herbert J. Yates presents

POP

I CAN'T STAND ANY MORE OF THESE ECLUSES!

I'M GETTING SO NERVOUS THAT I'M LOSING WEIGHT!

THEY KNOW I DON'T STOP STARTING THOSE FIGHTS!

I WILL NEVER GET MY WEIGHT DOWN TO NAME STONE!

She was clearly all foreground there.

CHINESE OPTICAL CO. OPTICIAN

Revised Broadcast

ROXY & BROADWAY

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GALA PREMIERE
AT 9.30 P.M. TO-MORROW.

20th Century Fox presents
THE NEW DIMENSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC MARVEL
YOU SEE WITHOUT GLASSES!

CINEMA SCOPe

The Greatest Story of Love
and Faith Ever Brought
to the Screen



Book Early To Avoid Disappointment!

ROXY 5 SHOWS ON FRI., SAT., SUN. & FRI., NEW YEAR
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Extra Performance At 12.00 Noon.

BROADWAY 5 SHOWS FROM 24th DEC. DAILY

Extra Performance At 12.00 Noon.

Complimentary Tickets Are Not Valid For This Picture.



A British Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 3 Grows old (4).
- 7 Lean (5).
- 8 Notion (4).
- 9 Slave (4).
- 10 Extat. (7).
- 12 Tax (4).
- 13 Reviso. (5).
- 14 Chow (4).
- 15 Radiates (5).
- 22 Encourage (4).
- 23 Cold vegetable dish (6).
- 26 Plunder (4).
- 28 Sailor (7).
- 30 Responsibility (4).
- 31 Tempest (8).
- 32 Tempest (8).
- 33 Profound (4).

DOWN

- 1 Upset (5).
- 2 Render impossible (7).
- 4 Inexperienced (5).
- 5 Sort out (4).
- 6 Report (4).
- 8 Slender (4).
- 11 Horn (5).
- 12 Leave out (4).
- 14 Catalogue (4).
- 15 Exclusive (5).
- 17 Good (4).
- 18 Clutch (4).
- 20 Go between (7).
- 22 Exclamation of woe (4).
- 24 Divert (5).
- 25 Joyful (6).
- 27 Precious stone (4).
- 28 Disposed of for money (4).

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD — Across: 1 Pastor, 7 Raps, 9 Shift, 10 Brink, 11 Dame, 12 Restraint, 13 Nooit, 19 So-so, 20 Contraband, 22 Stop, 24 Arena, 25 Nerve, 26 Tien, 27 Salmon. Down: 2 Amis, 3 Tutor, 4 Rabbit, 5 Trident, 6 Open, 8 Abode, 12 Shred, 13 Ruled, 14 Troopers, 17 Score, 18 Sleek, 20 Arrest, 21 Torto, 23 Tail.

AFTER MALAN, WHO? Premier May Retire Next Year

Pretoria, Dec. 21. With reports rife that Dr Daniel Malan will relinquish leadership of the South African Nationalist Party Government after his 80th birthday in May, political observers today forecast a struggle between two ministers for the succession.

They are the 71-year-old veteran Minister of Finance, Mr Nicholas Havenga, a moderate and the Nationalist's "strong man" Mr Johannes Strydom, 60, Minister for Lands, regarded as an extremist and republican, who is little known outside of South Africa.

A third minister, the 53-year-old Minister of the Interior, Mr Eben Donges is given an outside chance.

ALLEGED MISUSE OF DOLLARS BY KOREA

Cincinnati, Ohio, Dec. 21.

U.S. Representative Charles B. Brownson today alleged that Korea was using its slim foreign exchange to build a luxury hotel in Seoul while 25,000 people were homeless after the Pusan fire.

The Indiana Republican, who recently returned from a tour of Korea, said Korean President Syngman Rhee, was to blame for the misuse of slim funds. Rhee, he said, "aspires to be Korea's George Washington."

The Congressman said that Rhee was "neither an orangeman or the devil incarnate, but a tired, patriotic old man."

Mr Brownson said that while United States tax-payers poured in money for drugs, food and essentials, some \$2,000,000 of Korea's foreign exchange was being spent for materials to create a luxury hotel to include bars, cocktail lounges, garden rooms and a Western steak restaurant, "all at the insistence of President Rhee."

Mr Brownson charged that "while Korean foreign exchange and UN technical staffs are diverted at the whim of one man, technical assistance to the hungry, freezing people must wait." —United Press.

U.S. Inspection Of Jap. Arms

Tokyo, Dec. 22. Lieutenant-General W. B. Palmer, Assistant Chief of Staff, accompanied by an army Ordnance Chief, arrived in Japan early in December and inspected leading munitions plants in Japan.

Informed sources commenting on the visit of the high ranking officer, said his inspection tour may have something to do with off shore purchases under proposed Mutual Security Aid Agreement between the United States and Japan.

Lieutenant-General Palmer, accompanied by ranking officers of the Far East Command, visited on December 13, the Kobe Steel Corporation and the Komatsu Works before going to Korea, the sources said.

After the General returned from Korea, he inspected last week the Sagami Industry Company. —Reuter.

Behind the conflicting chances of these men for the future leadership of South Africa is an involved story of individual loyalties, geographical affinities and mixed party ambitions for the future of the country.

Though all represent the dominant Afrikaner who wants sooner or later a Republic, each man would set a very different pace in the next few years.

Political observers divide the Nationalist Party mainly in terms of those who are for or against Mr Strydom in the next Prime Minister;

Doctor Malan and Mr Strydom who has a considerable following in the party as seen by many to be leading rival factions in the Government party.

PREFERS HAVENGA

Prime Minister Malan is believed to be trying to secure either Mr Havenga or Mr Donges as his successor in preference to Mr Strydom.

When the Nationalist Government was re-elected last April for a second period of five years, many doubted whether Dr Malan would carry the responsibility of the Premiership much past his 80th year.

The first step towards his retirement from active politics was seen in his recent surprise withdrawal from leadership of the Cape Province branch of the Nationalist Party, a position which he had held for 38 years since 1915, when the Nationalist Party was formed in the Cape Province.

POLITICAL BALANCE

Some suggest that Dr Malan would be happiest to hand over his office to Mr Havenga, a man well-esteemed internationally who might also prove the best compromise acceptable to all conflicting views in the party.

Apart from his long political experience at home and overseas, Mr Havenga, who comes from the Orange Free State, could also provide the necessary political balance between the ambitions of north and south in the Nationalist Party.

If Mr Strydom assumed power immediately after Doctor Malan, many believe that political controversies would only be intensified.

Certain opponents of the Government see in Mr Havenga their best hope for political collaboration, however small, over recurrent differences affecting the colour bar, the courts and the constitution.

Some even see time wording in favour of an era of political peace if the Nationalist right wing is kept out of authority now.

STRYDOM ULTIMATELY

But if the Nationalists remain in power, as they are expected to do for some time, many feel certain that Mr Strydom would ultimately, if not immediately on Doctor Malan's retirement, become Prime Minister of South Africa.

His chances of succeeding Mr Havenga as Prime Minister were

Germs Go With The Calico

Sydney, Dec. 21. White man's diseases—including the common cold, dysentery and measles—have now penetrated to the isolated Pacific island of Tikopia, 600 miles east of the Solomon Islands.

Mr James Spillius, Canadian anthropologist, reported this on his return here after 15 months on the island.

"The natives want the white man's calico and implements—so they have to put up with his diseases," he commented. "It is inevitable."

Mr Spillius, staff member of the Australian National University, Canberra, spent part of his time at Tikopia with Professor Raymond Firth, another member of the University, who was checking on changes since his last visit there 25 years ago.—China Mail Special.

Russia Asked To Open Cross Points In Germany

Bonn Dec. 21. The three Western powers today proposed to the Soviet occupation authorities the re-opening of some border crossing points between East and West Germany, usually well-informed sources here reported tonight.

In identical letters to the Soviet High Commissioner, M. Vladimir Semenov, delivered in Berlin today, the Western Allies proposed the re-opening of certain roads and rail crossing points closed by Soviet authorities in recent years.

Details of the number and location of the crossing points proposed for re-opening are not known, but it is believed that cross points between West Berlin and East Germany were not involved.

Western observers speculated whether this Allied move might be part of the "jockeying for position" before the opening of the Berlin Big Four conference early next year.

Though no Soviet reply has yet been received to the Western Allied proposal to hold the conference on January 4, West German and Allied experts have begun detailed examinations of the problems likely to occur.

This latest Allied proposal, diplomatic observers thought, might be a further move to avoid being caught on the wrong foot in the eye of German public opinion once the conference started.—Reuter.

SANTA STOPS A FIRE

Hempstead, N.Y., Dec. 21. Santa Claus stopped "out of his sleigh" in nearby Lake View last night, put out a fire in an empty home, and then got back to work distributing his Christmas largesse to the community's youngsters.

Santa and his helpers—all Lake View firemen—were riding a fire truck on their Christmas journey when they discovered the fire.—United Press.

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"Triumph And Tragedy" Chapter 33

SERIOUS CRISIS IN THE LEVANT

By Sir Winston Churchill

THE liberation of France led to a serious crisis in the Levant. It had been evident for some time that a new treaty would be needed to define French rights in this area, and on my way home from Yalta I had met the President of Syria in Cairo and urged him to make a peaceful settlement with France.

The Levant States had been unwilling to start negotiations, but we had persuaded them to do so and conversations had begun. The French delegate, Gen. Beynet, went to Paris for instructions, and his proposals were awaited with anxiety and excitement throughout Syria. Delay occurred; no proposals arrived; and then news spread that French reinforcements were on their way.

On May 4 I had sent a friendly message to de Gaulle explaining that we had no ambitions of any kind in the Levant States and would withdraw all our troops from Syria and the Lebanon as soon as the new treaty was concluded and in operation, but I also mentioned that we had to keep our war communications throughout the Middle East free from disturbance and interruption.

We represented to him that the arrival of reinforcements, however small, was bound to be looked upon as a means of pressure, and might have serious consequences. This advice was not accepted, and on May 17 French troops landed at Beirut.

AN explosion followed. The Syrian and Lebanese Governments broke off negotiations and said that, now the war was over, the Allies would be asked to evacuate all foreign troops. Anti-French strikes and demonstrations began. Eight people were killed and 26 injured in Aleppo. The Syrian Chamber of Deputies ordered conscription.

A Foreign Office announcement of May 26 welcoming the arrival of French reinforcements drew a reply from Paris next day that the disturbances were artificially provoked and that many more British

troops had also been moved in without protest by the Syrians or the Lebanese and without agreement by the French. We had in fact appealed to the Syrian Government on May 25 to keep control of the situation but on the 28th they told us that events were too much for them and they could no longer be responsible for internal order.

French shelling had begun in Homs and Hama; French armoured cars were patrolling the streets of Damascus and Aleppo; French aircraft were flying low over the mosques during the hour of prayer, and machine-guns were mounted on the roofs of buildings.

BY an error in transmission, and with no intentional discourtesy, this message was read to the House of Commons by Mr Eden about three-quarters of an hour before it reached the General. He felt obliged to issue a public reply in Paris on June 1, saying in effect that the French troops had been attacked by the Syrians, but had everywhere gained control, and that the French Government had themselves ordered a "Cease fire" on May 31.

A vehement protest reached me from the President of the Syrian Republic. But the action we had already taken proved effective. I was most anxious not to vex the French more than was inevitable and I understood de Gaulle's view, and mood about a cause for which he felt passionately.

BUT he also struck a statesmanlike note. "We feel," he said, "not the slightest rancour or anger towards the British. France and myself have the highest regard and affection for them. But there are opposing interests, and these must be reconciled. I hope all this will not have too far-reaching consequences.

In view of the grave situation which has arisen between your troops and the Levant States, and the severe fighting which has broken out, we have with profound regret ordered the Commander-in-Chief Middle East to intervene to prevent the further effusion of blood in the interests of the security of the whole Middle East, which in-

volves communications for the war against Japan.

In order to avoid collision between British and French forces, we request you immediately to order the French troops to cease fire and to withdraw to their barracks. Once firing has ceased and order has been restored we shall be prepared to begin tripartite discussions in London.

★

NOW that we have come to your aid I hope you will not make our task harder by vexatious dispute arose between de Gaulle and President Truman. In the closing days of the fighting troops of the Free French Army in the Alpine region crossed the frontier and moved forward into North-Western Italy. In the province of Cuneo Orders were presently issued by Gen. Eisenhower for their withdrawal. These orders were ignored by the French units concerned under the authority of their Government.

And to the Syrian President, whom I deemed a sensible and competent man:

Now that we have come to your aid I hope you will not make our task harder by vexatious dispute arose between de Gaulle and President Truman. In the closing days of the fighting troops of the Free French Army in the Alpine region crossed the frontier and moved forward into North-Western Italy. In the province of Cuneo Orders were presently issued by Gen. Eisenhower for their withdrawal. These orders were ignored by the French units concerned under the authority of their Government.

ON May 30 Gen. Doyen, commanding the French Army in the Alps, sent a letter to Gen. Crittenden, commander of the United States IVth Corps in North-Western Italy, referring to an attempt to establish Allied military government in the province of Cuneo. The letter ended with the following paragraph:

France cannot consent that a mobilisation against her will should be made in the existing state of affairs in the Alps Maritimes. This would be contrary to her honour and her security. I have been ordered by the Provisional Government of the French Republic to occupy and administer this territory.

This mission being incompatible with the installation of an Allied military agency in the same region, I find myself obliged to oppose it. Any insistence in this direction would assume a clearly unfriendly character, and could have grave consequences.

On June 2 Gen. Crittenden received another letter from Gen. Doyen:

Gen. de Gaulle has instructed me to make as clear as possible to the Allied Command that I have received the order to prevent the setting up of Allied military government in territories occupied by our troops and administered by us by all necessary means without exception.

This was astonishing language to use in all the circumstances. "Is it not rather disagreeable?" I wrote to the President when Alexander reported the facts. "For us to be addressed in these terms by Gen. de Gaulle, whom we have reinstated in liberated France at some expense of American and British blood and treasure? Our policy with France is one of friendship."

Mr. Truman was indignant. He wrote to de Gaulle, pointing out that the message contained the most despicable threat that French troops bearing American arms would fight American and Allied soldiers, whose efforts and sacrifice had recently and successfully helped to liberate France. The President said that no more equipment or ammunition would be issued to the French forces.

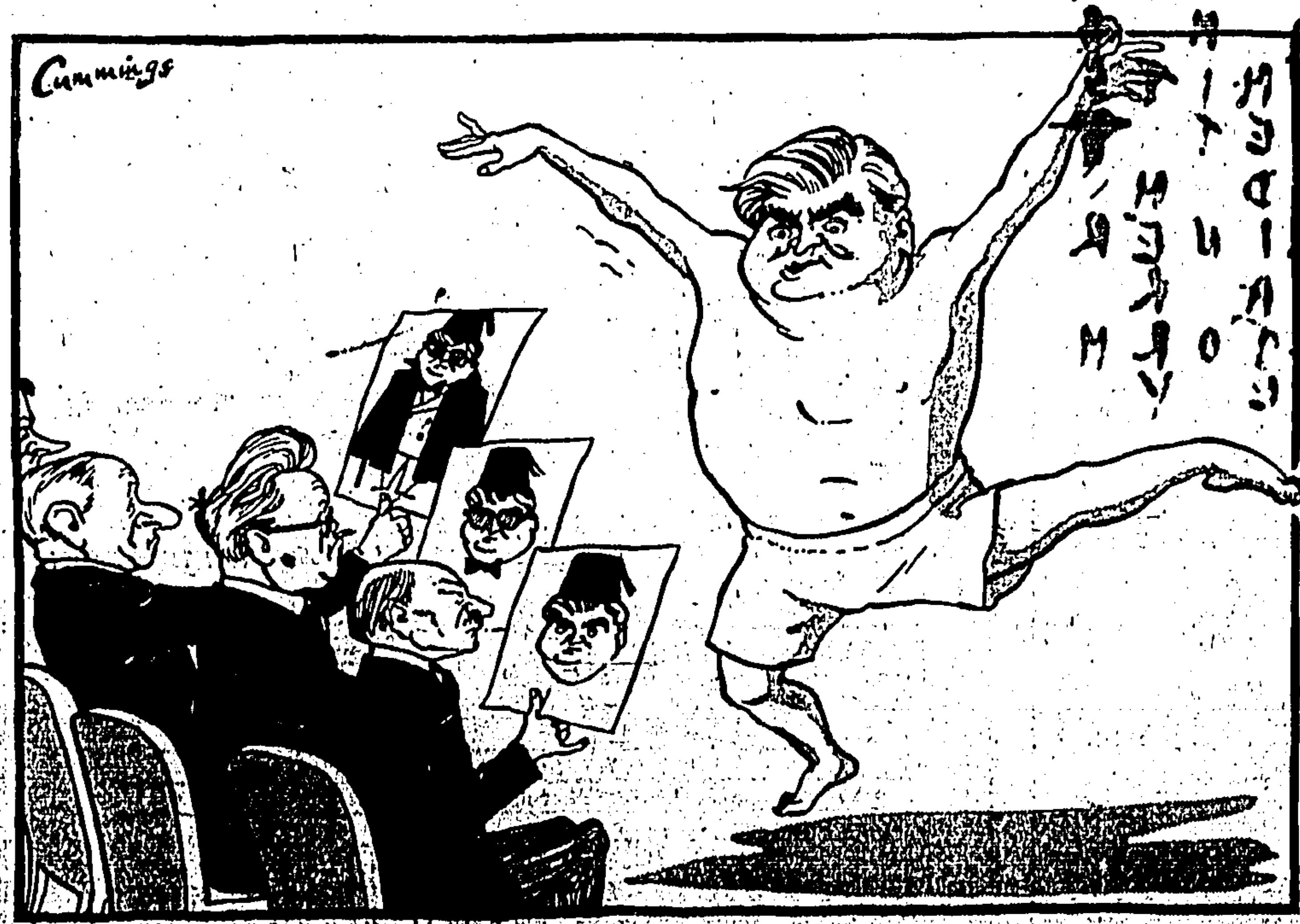
This produced immediate results. De Gaulle wrote through his Foreign Minister:

Obviously there has never been an intention either in the minds of the French or in those of Gen. Doyen who commands the army of occupation of the Alps, to oppose by force the presence of American troops in the small areas which French troops occupy at present to the east of the 1939 frontier between France and Italy. Besides, American troops are now in those areas side by side with French troops, and here as elsewhere good comradeship prevails.

Tomorrow morning Gen. Juin will proceed to Field Marshal Alexander's headquarters to deal with this matter in the broadest spirit of conciliation in order that a solution may be found.

Thus the matter ended, if not pleasantly, at least without another quarrel. The British public, whose attention had been distracted from world events by the General Election, were not troubled by these affairs.

(Continued Tomorrow)



The new Health Service contributor to the Egyptian newspaper Al Qamhia does a "Dancing Major act" to persuade his Shadow Cabinet to extend the Health Service.

London Express Service

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WEST HAM v. NOTTS COUNTY



Ernie Gregory, the West Ham goalkeeper, punches clear from a Notts County attack during the match at Upton Park.

Also in picture from left are West Ham defenders Allison (centre-half) and O'Farrell (left-half). On right is Johnston the Notts County centre-forward. Notts County won 2-1.

Four Nations Have Submitted Their Complete Entry List For The Asian Games

Manila, Dec. 22.
Of 15 nations which have signified their intention to participate in the Second Asian Games to be held here next May 1-9, four have already submitted their entries for each event, it was learned from the Asian Games Committee yesterday.

These countries are Indonesia, Vietnam, India and Thailand, whose total entries number 220, excluding officials, coaches and others completing each delegation.

Indonesia has submitted the largest entry with 100 (46 non-athletes) in track and field, basketball, football, shooting, swimming and weightlifting.

India's list numbers 85, including 16 officials, with entries in all events except boxing, shooting and weightlifting.

Vietnam has 37 in its delegation (11 non-players) and will compete in track and field, boxing and football. Thailand,

which has the smallest entry, 24 including two officials, will compete only in men's track and field, basketball and boxing.

Other nations which have not yet submitted their entries are Japan, Nationalist China, Hong Kong, Israel, Korea, Ceylon, Singapore, Iran and Pakistan.

Meanwhile, it was learned that a general meeting of the committee, scheduled for April 30 and May 5, to discuss whether the Games should be held under the auspices of the International Olympic Committee, will be preceded by individual meetings on April 21.—France-Presse.

Rugger Match Tomorrow

By "PAK LO"

Surg. Cmdr. McClintock's XV meets HMS Tyne in a rugger match at the Club ground on Wednesday, kick-off at 4.30 p.m.

Surg. Cmdr. McClintock is well known in rugby circles in Hong Kong for his very capable refereeing and his great interest in the game. Many well known players are turning out in this game and it is hoped that there will be a good attendance.

It will be Lt. Gerard's last game in the Colony. McClintock's XV is a blend of older experienced players who do not now play regularly, such as Forsgate, Minto, Roberts, and more active players like "Wink" Smith, the Navy captain, Gerard, the Army captain, and Bob Craig, Club captain.

HMS Tyne recently returned from Japan where the ship's XV had numerous matches with other ships and also with Japanese sides. The XV contains three players of the Navy team. The teams will be:

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The teams will be:

OFF TO THE INDIES



The party of 15 MCC cricketers leave London Airport for the West Indies. Len Hutton (bottom-left) is the first professional to take an MCC team abroad on a Test tour.—Express Photo.

SPORTS ROUND-UP

Johnny Williams Feels Much Better About His Chances

Johnny Williams is the latest British heavyweight champion about to blaze the come-back trail. Johnny was at the Harringay ringside to watch Jack Gardner, the man from whom he took the title, open his return campaign against the Italian Ugo Bacilieri.

He commented afterwards: "Having seen that I feel much better about my chances, I could do much better, and if anyone wants me to prove it I'm more than willing."

Next March Williams' brother Robin returns from a two-year stay in New Zealand. He will look after Johnny's farm, and Johnny will become a full-time fighter. He has set himself a time limit of two years—to make the grade—or retire for good.

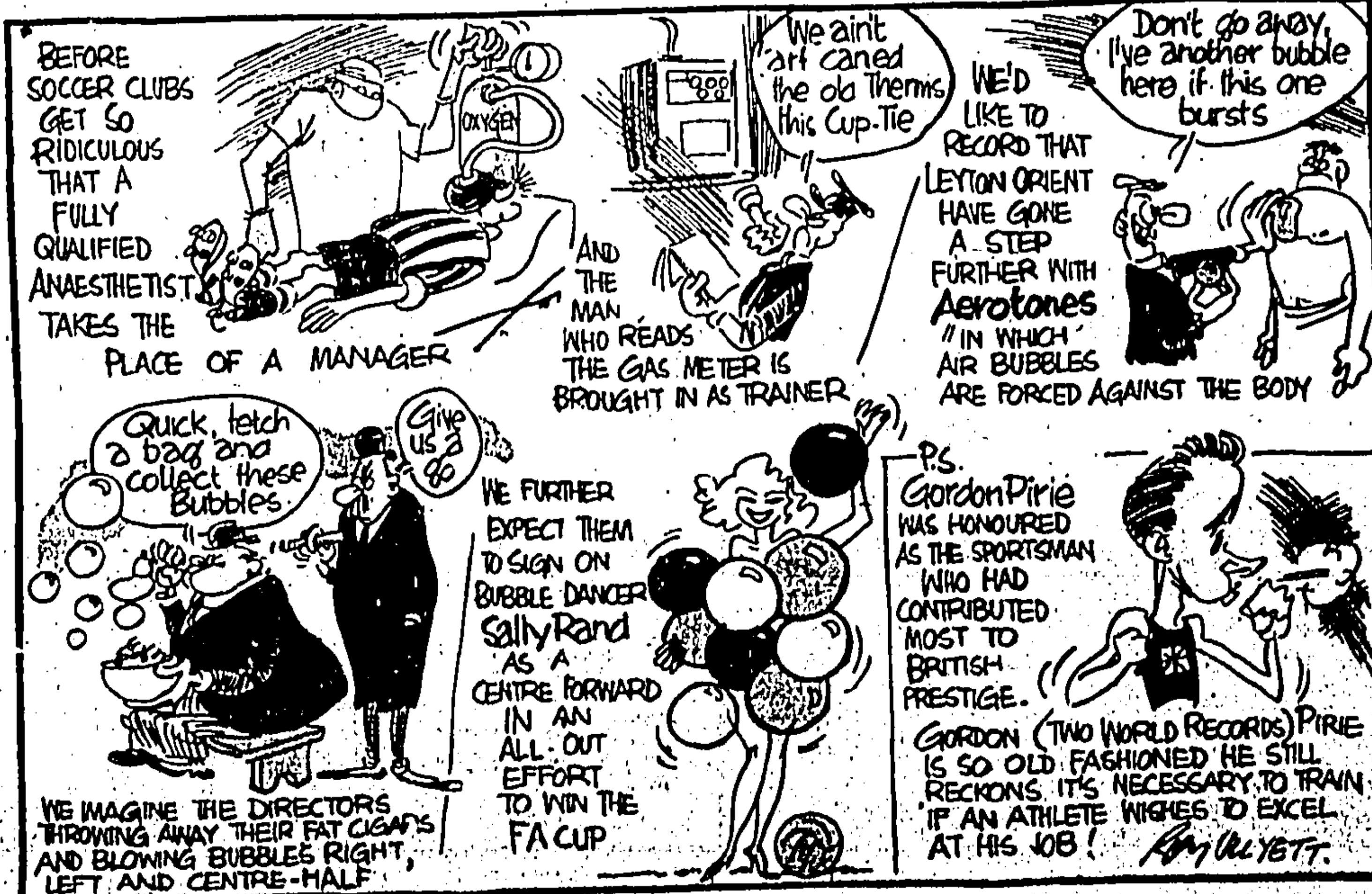
H. K. McKenzie, the crack Australian cyclist, believes in thorough preparation. Last week he arrived in England to begin training for the 1954 Tour de France race, which takes place in June. McKenzie said on arrival that he is trying to get an Australian team to enter for the Tour.

HELPING THE LADIES

Alec Becker, Surrey and England pace bowler, although not touring the West Indies this winter with the MCC, will keep his hand in at cricket—by coaching indoors.

Alec and twin brother Eric are joint presidents of the Redoubtables Ladies' Cricket Club, one of the few ladies' clubs with winter training

—(London Express Service)



FEW FIRST DIVISION CLUBS CAN EXPECT EASY PASSAGE INTO 4TH ROUND OF FA CUP

Few First Division clubs can expect an easy passage in the Third Round of the FA Cup, to be played on January 9.

The draw has brought together twelve of the giants while seven more have ties with prominent Second Division clubs. Newcastle, Cardiff and Manchester City are the exceptions.

The Tynesiders receive Wigan Athletic, Lancashire Combination survivors. Cardiff are at home to Peterborough of the Midland League while Manchester City take the short cross-country trip to Bradford, promotion candidates in Division Three (North).

One effect of the draw is that more "unfashionable" clubs than usual will qualify for the fourth round. Some of the smaller clubs would have preferred meeting top-weight opposition now and reaping the financial harvest, but those that survive should derive even greater benefit as the competition narrows and interest grows.

The outstanding match of the round is likely to be at Sheffield, where United and Wednesday have been drawn together for

DAVIS CUP FINAL

Professionals To Help Tune Up The Teams

Melbourne, Dec. 21. Ted Schroeder, the former American Davis Cup player, and Denny Potts, the Australian professional, are to help sharpen up the United States Davis Cup team for the challenge round against Australia at the end of the month.

Tidy will join the cup squad here for practice later this week, Billy Talbert, the American captain, announced to-day.

The Australian team will have professionals Frank Sedgman and Ken McGregor to assist them at their work-outs. Sedgman and McGregor won back the Davis Cup for Australia from the United States in 1950.

Australia and the United States will be meeting in the final for the 18th time in their match here on December 28, 29 and 30.

Despite the hot humid weather, the Americans were practising today. "We are putting everything in to it," said Talbert.

First prize will be £150, £50 more than the winner of the Irish Championship receives, and the second player will get £100. Another Dublin firm are considering opening an indoor school at which leading professionals would "guest" for a month.

Irish professional golfers will have an extra £500 tournament next year. An offer by a Dublin firm has been accepted and the tournament, 72 holes stroke play, will be held in Dublin as part of the National Fair celebrations.

Commenting on the form of his two top players, Talbert said: "Tony Trott still has some distance to go, but he is moving along amazingly. Don't be surprised if he is a world beater by the first match of the challenge round."

"Selkirk is regaining his confidence and has changed his attitude to practice, I am sure that will make all the difference,"

Mr Harry Hopman, captain manager of the Australian team, said today that Australia should win the challenge round by three matches to two, and it might be 4-1.

"Trotter is the main danger to Australia's hopes," declared Mr Hopman. "He could win both his matches, but Selkirk faces a terrible task to find his top form in time. The doubt could be touch and close, but Australia has two pairs—Roswell and Head, and Rose and Hartwig, either of which should be capable of winning."—Reuter.

—(London Express Service)

Third Division clubs, with eyes on promotion, may also find themselves in for Cup adventures. Port Vale, leaders of the Northern Section, are likely to make further progress against Queen's Park Rangers. They have a six-point advantage over their nearest League rivals, but Ipswich, leaders of the Southern Division, are harder pressed and may find a long run embarrassing. The East Anglian club are at home to Oldham,

London, Dec. 21. passage in the Third

Round of the FA Cup, to be played on January 9.

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take the short cross-country trip to Bradford, promotion candidates in Division Three (North).

The first time in 23 years, United won the previous encounter, a fifth-round replay, four-one. A capacity crowd of 65,000 is anticipated.

ANOTHER "DERBY"

Wolves, quoted as nine-one favourites for the cup, receive Birmingham in another "Derby". The two "Midlands" will want to see this match.

Aston Villa and West Bromwich Albion, other Midlands

candidates, are paired with London clubs. Villa play Arsenal at Highbury. Last time these famous clubs met in the same

stage was in 1931. They drew at Highbury but Arsenal won the replay three-one. They staged a rehearsal in a League game the previous Saturday. Aston Villa's present manager, Eric Houghton, appeared for Villa in the second encounter.

West Bromwich Albion meet

Chelsea at the Hawthorns. On

League form Albion seem likely winners, but Chelsea have a reputation as Cup-fighters. Last year, when the clubs

met in a fourth-round

match, Chelsea triumphed 4-0.

Charlton have a difficult task

at Fratton Park, Portsmouth

showing improvement recently.

but Bolton, last year's finalists,

may carry too much forward

punch for Liverpool, fellow

Lancastrians, who are much

concerned with the fight to

stay in Division One.

Burnley, who receive Man-

chester United in another

all-Lancashire tie, won two-

one when the teams met in

the League in October.

Tottenham Hotspur's ill-luck

does not change. Last season

they were drawn away four

Leeds, where the chief menace

will be the Welsh international

centre-forward John Charles.

Preston North End and Hudders-

field also travel, the former to

Derby County, and the latter to

West Ham—tough encounters

for both First Division clubs.

Blackpool, Cup holders, receiv-

ing Luton, who are among the

Second Division promotion

candidates, while Middlesbrough

and Sunderland face lively

challengers in Leicester and

Doncaster respectively.

Supporters of the Bristol clubs

may find their loyalties strained.

Rovers play Blackburn at

Eastville while Third Division

City encounter Rotherham

United at Ashton Gate.

IN FOR ADVENTURES

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club are at home to Oldham,

who, as bottom club of the Second Division, are also unfortunately placed.

Hastings United, the Southern Leaguers, who caused the biggest surprise of the last round by defeating Swindon 4-1, will continue training their players on sherry and eggs, oysters, beef steaks and chicken, in preparation for the home tie with Northwich City.—China Mail Special.

Malaya Offers Six Shuttlers

The Hongkong Badminton Association has received a letter from the Badminton Association of Malaya requesting a reply as to the possibility of the Colony entertaining a team of the six best available players of Malaya, including Malaya's Thomas Cup players of 1952 and possibly potential players of the 1955 team, during March and April next year.

The BAM is at present making arrangements to send the official team on a tour of the Far Eastern countries and have included the Colony and Macao in its proposed itinerary.

The BAM requests provision of air passages, hold board and accommodation, expenses (pocket) and percentage of gates for the party which will consist of six players and two officials.

ACCEPTORS FOR SUMMER CUP

Sydney, Dec. 21. There are 21 final acceptors for the Australian Jockey Club's Summer Cup to be run at Randwick on December 26, over a mile and a half:

They are with weights:—Lord Forest (8 st. 10 lbs), Regal Glitter (84), Unfair (84), Grand Monarch (8), Great Word (8), Double Blank (7:10), Forest Land (7:10), Dura Bay (7:9), Eliot (7:5), Two Birds (7:5), Allocate (7:5), Maynard (7:5), Cymkill (7:4), Tea Towel (7:4), Darly Flite (7:2), Britavah (7:2), Lord Lucifer (7:2), Roman Hero (7), Lord Stefan (7), Bexley (7), Cedrela (7).—Reuter.

—**REINFORCEMENT AWAITED**

Taipei, Dec. 21. The Chinese Referees soccer team from Hongkong is expecting the arrival of Lee Yuk-tak, son of Lee Wai-tong, to resume the challenge against local soccer teams after two setbacks.

The visitors first lost to a Nationalist Navy team by 2-1 last Saturday, and were again defeated by a CAT-Chungking combined team yesterday afternoon by 3-1.—Reuter.

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 "PAKHOI" Shanghai 3 p.m. 24th Dec.
ARRIVALS FROM
 "SZECHUEN" Keelung a.m. 25th Dec.
 "POYANG" Moji 25th Dec.

A.O. LINE LTD./C.N. CO., LTD., JOINT SERVICE

SAILINGS TO

"CHANGSHA" Yokohama, Nagoya,
 Moji, Kure, Yokohama & Kobe Noon 23rd Dec.

ARRIVALS FROM

"SINKIANG" Melbourne & Manila 30th Dec.

BLUE FUNNEL LINE

Scheduled Sailings to Europe via Aden & Port Said
 Loads Sails Arrives
 "CYCLOPS" Liverpool & Dublin 23rd Dec. 24th Dec.
 "AUTOLYCUS" Genoa, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, London, Antwerp & Hamburg 28th Dec. 28th Dec.
 "PERSEUS" Marseilles, Liverpool & Glasgow 5th Jan. 6th Jan.
 "ANCHISES" Liverpool & Glasgow 13th Jan. 14th Jan. 23rd Jan.
 "CLYTONEUS" Liverpool & Dublin 22nd Jan.
 Scheduled Sailings from Europe
 Sails Sails Arrives
 S. "ANCHISES" Sailed Liverpool Rotterdam Hong Kong 29th Dec.
 G. "CLYTONEUS" do do do 28th Dec.
 S. "ASTYANAX" do 8th Jan. 1954
 G. "PYRRHIUS" do 13th Dec. 13th Jan. 1954
 S. "EUMAEUS" 10th Dec. 25th Jan. 1954
 G. "ASCANIUS" 24th Dec. 28th Jan. 1954
 S. "AGAPENOR" 3rd Jan. 7th Feb. 1954
 G. "PELEUS" 7th Jan. 13th Jan. 13th Feb. 1954
 G. Loading Glasgow, before Liverpool. S. Loading Swanes, before Liverpool. Carriers' option to proceed via other ports to load & discharge cargo.

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 "AGAMEMNON" Sailed 30th Dec.
 "DONA AURORA" do 19th Jan.
 "DONA ALICIA" do 21st Jan.
 "DATAAN" 24th Dec. 15th Jan. 13th Feb.
 "MUNCASTER CASTLE" 14th Jan. 6th Feb. 6th Mar.
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 "AJAX" 4th Jan. 5th Jan.
 "HAINAN" 10th Jan. 20th Jan.
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 (Connects at Bangkok with U.B.A. on Tuesdays for Singapore)
 HK/Malaya/IN. Borneo (DC-4) 10.00 a.m. Wed. 11.00 a.m. Sat.
 HK/Sabah/Singapore (DC-3) 11.00 a.m. Wed. 1.00 p.m. Thu.
 HK/Bangkok/Haiphong (DC-4) 10.00 a.m. Wed. 2.45 p.m. Thu.
 Calcutta (DC-4) 11.00 a.m. Sat. 4.30 p.m. Sun.
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 Sails Dec. 24 for Yokohama & Kobe.

"NOREVERETT"

Arrives Dec. 28 from Manila.
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"STAR ALCYONE"

Arrives Dec. 23 from Singapore.
 Sails Dec. 24 for Pusan, Kobe & Yokohama.

"STAR ARCTURUS"

Arrives Dec. 24 from Japan.
 Sails Dec. 25 for Singapore, Colombo, Bombay, Karachi, Khorramshahr, Basrah & Bahrain.

"THAI"

Arrives Dec. 26 from Japan.
 Sails Dec. 26 for Manila.

(Accepting cargo for transhipment Kobe/Fusan and Kobe/Okinawa)

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PERSONAL

Sir Man Kam and Lady Lo take this

opportunity to wish all their relatives

and friends a merry Christmas

and a happy and prosperous New

Year and to thank all kind wishes received.

They hope they may be excused for not sending out

individual greetings.

HOME LEAVE

ENGLAND. Comfortable home leave at "The Hale," Newhaven, "Glossy" modernized, self-contained villa, spacious, airy, well-furnished, delightful surroundings 250 acres, woodlands, children's paradise. Constant hot water, electric light, central heating, nursery with trained nannie. Domestic help. Television. From 4½ guineas weekly. A few vacancies for 1954. Inquiries reservations. Eaves.

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Wednesday, 23rd December, 1953,

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Hongkong, 18th December, 1953.

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LET HIM PUT ON

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I WILL

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I WILL

BEAT HIM.

I WILL

AIR CHARTER FIRMS GET A BOOST

Seamen with wings are bringing a boom to air charter firms. More and more aircraft are booked to bring home the crews of the ships they have delivered to foreign ports.

Sometimes the vessels are new ships going to their new owners. Others are second-hand vessels sold in the open market. Many are bound for steel furnaces.

Within the last few days inquiries have been made in the air charter market for several aircraft for what seamen are now calling the "graveyard airlift."

12 SHIPS SOLD

The aeroplanes are needed to fly back from Japan crews of vessels sold to Japanese shipbreakers. In the past few weeks a fleet of nearly 12 obsolete ships has been sold to Japan for scrap purposes. Several of them are unwanted British vessels.

The majority of these flights are now fixed in London at the Baltic Exchange, the world centre for arranging cargoes for merchant ships. The exchange has been developing a similar organisation for the world's aircraft.

All the big British shipping lines are rapidly increasing their use of aircraft for their crews. Airplanes are being chartered daily to switch crews in Europe and the East from ships disabled and delayed by repairs in distant ports and to relieve seamen due home for leave.

(London Express Service)

Gifts For Parish Church

London, Dec. 15. Leslie Durbin, who fashioned the Sword of Stalingrad, has now made a chalice and paten for the parish church of the late Sir Frank Stockdale, Deputy Chairman of the Colonial Development Corporation who died in 1947.

They are the gift of his two sons. And they were dedicated by the Archbishop of Canterbury during a Communion service in the May Summer House Chapel. The church faces the Colonial Office Headquarters and is attended by many Civil Servants. More than sixty were present at the dedication ceremony.

Sir Frank Stockdale had close associations with the colonies. His first colonial appointment was as Mycologist and Lecturer in Agricultural science at the Imperial Department of Agriculture in the West Indies.

"Later he went to British Guiana as Assistant Director of Agriculture and then to Mauritius as Director of Agriculture. He will be best remembered as Comptroller for Development and Welfare in the West Indies from 1940-1945, when he was appointed Adviser to the Colonial Office on the Ten Year Development Plans of the Colonies."

EVEN THE RUST CAN BE MADE TO LOOK REAL

Two brothers in the Surrey village of Claygate are daily using forge, hammer and anvil to make ornamental ironwork. For 50 years they have been specialists at it.

The father of Mr J. T. Hogden and Mr H. J. Hogden opened a shoeing forge in Common Road, Claygate, in 1890. The brothers have made ornamental work their business.

Sold Mr H. J. Hogden: "We can make a replica of an Elizabethan dog grate with the rust, if you like."

"It is not difficult, for we still use the same methods as were used in the 16th century. We still depend on the fire, hammer, and anvil, but our drills are now precision-made."

Mr J. T. Hogden has a 26-year-old son who will carry on the business when the brothers retire.—London Express Service.

No Registration For New Party

Berlin, Dec. 21. The West Berlin city government refused to register the "Europe Party of Germany," as a political party. In Berlin:

It said its programme did not correspond to that of a political party. None of the party's leaders is known publicly.—Reuters.

British Diplomat In Teheran



Mr Denis Wright, recently appointed British Charge d'Affaires in Teheran, arrived in the Persian capital yesterday. He will re-open the British Embassy which was closed down 14 months ago. Mr Wright, who is 42, has specialised in economics during his 14 years in the consular and diplomatic services.—Express Photo.

British Christmas Fare Most Varied In 15 Years

London, Dec. 21. The people of Britain are looking forward to their tastiest, most varied Christmas fare for 15 years.

With food rationing almost ended, housewives feel as if shackles had been struck from them. This year, for the first time since the war, they can use as much sugar as they wish.

White flour, only a year ago a mere memory of the days before the war, is back on the pantry shelves again.

Dried fruit, raisins, and the other ingredients of the rich Christmas pudding beloved by the British are plentiful.

Technically, meat and bacon are still rationed until next year, but supplies are so good that shopkeepers can give their customers extra. In any case, the turkey is the traditional English Christmas dish—and the signs are that there will be plenty of poultry for everyone.

More than 8,000 tons of turkey will be imported this year, and producers in England and Ireland will contribute thousands of tons more.

The one difficult item is butter which is still scarce and strictly rationed to three ounces per person per week. But other fats, including margarine, are available to make up the difference, and grocers are fairly generous with them.

AT THE PORTS

At the ports, ships from many parts of the world are discharging cargoes of sultanas, currants and raisins from Greece, South Africa, Cyprus, California and Turkey.

Eating apples from Italy are being swung ashore. Bananas, until recently so scarce as to be almost a delicacy in Britain, are now easy to obtain.

Big hotels are planning Christmas banquets on a scale not seen here since 1938, the last Christmas before World War II. Their chefs, frustrated for years by scarcities, are inventing new luxury sweets and dishes now that they can get all the ingredients they want.

Apart from the food and unrationed chocolate and sweetmeats, British children will find that Christmas 1953 is getting somewhere near the kind of Christmas they have only heard about until now.

RANGE OF TOYS

There is a much wider range of toys in the shops this year. Cowboy suits are made of better material and are much more glamorous than last year. There are huge rubber men which can be blown up and used as rebounding punchballs, miniature washing machines, and miniature bricks for building replicas of real houses.

One popular toy is a steering wheel with gear lever which teaches a child the rudiments of car driving.

For adult gifts are made of better materials. There are more electrical gadgets.

In spite of complaints about the increased cost of living, Britons are finding that, on the

TRADE and COMMERCE SECTION

WOOL AND RUBBER PROSPECTS

1954 May Be Crucial Period For Markets

London, Dec. 21.

Russian buying of wool and other consumer goods, against sales of gold and Russian's other means of raising money, is quite real so far as it goes, but it does not go very far, and it is a chancy foundation for any market.

Because of the downturn in U.S. defence spending on the one hand, and the concentrated tax payments by U.S. companies on the other hand, one has previously surmised that the first half of next year may be the testing time for many markets. This may apply particularly to wool, since the first half of the calendar year is the heavy supply season.

First sales of new-season crossbred wool find a good enough demand but it remains to be seen how the market will stand up to the main weight of the clip.

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

New York, Dec. 21.

Stocks turned easier late today under influence of the steel's which dropped on news of production cut-back in the industry.

Stocks turned lower on a combination of news—word that US Steel is shutting down a blast furnace at Baddock, Pa., because of a decline in orders; and the estimate that steel industry operations this week will be at a low 66.6 per cent of capacity—smallest since the strike week of July 28, 1952.

While the estimate, made by American Iron and Steel Institute, reflects in part the Christmas holiday, it is a larger drop than usual. US Steel fell 3½ points to \$30.90. Bethlehem declined ½ to \$31.12.

For the market as a whole, however, changes were small.

Volume for the day totalled 1,690,000 shares, compared with 1,550,000 on Friday.

Motors held steady, with volume coming into Willys-Overland, the day's most active stock, off ¼ point to \$16.30.

Of 1,108 issues traded, 572 declined, 322 advanced. There were 26 new highs, 36 new lows.

The New York Stock Exchange bond volume was at \$3,115,000.

The American Stock Exchange volume was \$20,000 shares. Dow Jones closing averages were:

	Dec. 21
10 industrial	282.80
20 railroads	172.70
20 utilities	152.70
20 stocks	107.10
40 bonds	97.01
Comm. future price index	104.11
United Press	

Some food is dearer, but poultry is slightly cheaper than last year.

whole, this is a cheaper Christmas than in previous years. Most goods, including toys, are down in price because the Government in this year's budget made big reductions in the purchase tax which it has imposed since the war on sales.

Motor oil is dearer, but volume is down.

JOHN CLARKE'S
CASEBOOK

Three Together

POVERTY, as well as love, bound Liza, in her late middle-age, both to her mother, who had passed the peak of 80, and to Tom, her son, now in his early twenties.

The three generations shared a home, each in a different way dependent upon the others.

The small, shabby house where they lived belonged to Liza's mother. But she, at her age, could never have run it alone. Liza did the lion's share of the work, and counted it a bargain that she received a roof over her head in return, for she was the poorest of the trio. The riches was Tom, and though a sense of duty towards the others had something to do with his staying, no doubt, he would not have found many places in London to provide full board and lodgings for the £2 a week he paid at his grandmother's home.

LIZA IN CHARGE

It was a happy household, though, of course, with three of such diverse ages living so much on top of each other, there were sometimes minor storms.

A short time ago, Liza's mother went to hospital. For the first time in the eight years since her husband died, Liza found herself mistress, in the house.

She still went out to work each day, scrubbing other people's houses, but now when she came home, she could imagine it was her own home she attended to and not her mother's.

She gave the place a thorough going-over, a kind of out-of-season double-strength spring-clean. She meant to have the place fairly sparkling by the time her mother returned.

Liza had another idea. That she would buy some little thing to wear to match the house's freshness and please her mother. The day before her mother was due to come home, Liza came up to the West End in search of something cheap and cheerful to wear. She found a bright blue jumper, priced at 3s. 1d. She stole the jumper.

£2 OR A WEEK

WHEN they caught her, Liza cried: "My mother's coming out of hospital tomorrow, please don't charge me with stealing, let me pay. I'll pay double."

At Marlborough Street next morning, she pleaded guilty to the charge against her they read out.

"Her only income," said the officer in charge of the case to Mr. Paul Bonnett, V.C., the magistrate, "is her widow's pension of 10s. a week, and £1 19s. she makes by going out scrubbing, in the early mornings. I gather her mother is also in poor circumstances. Her son is here and would like to speak to you."

THE SON

USUALLY in court, it is fathers and mothers who step forward, shy, disappointed, despairing to speak for sons and daughters who have done wrong. Now, Liza's son, a fresh-faced, worried young man, used just the formula they do: "You couldn't want a better mother," he said. "I humbly ask you to be lenient..."

Liza, tall, and at 58, straight-backed, immensely neat in every particular of her dress, pushed a handkerchief behind her glasses and wiped her eyes to hear her son speak so.

"She's obviously very sorry," said the magistrate, "I'll be as lenient as I can." He fined Liza £2 and gave her a fortnight in which to find the money.

Mother and son presently left the court. Two generations hurrying home to welcome back a third. Poverty and love bound the three together; something besides bound these two now, the common bond of a secret shared.

5 NEW DEPUTY PREMIERS

(Continued from Page 1)
as "up-and-coming" during the Stalin era and were retained as key Ministers in the Cabinet reshuffle on Stalin's death in March.

Ivan Tsvetayev, the Soviet Minister of Metallurgical Industry, and now a Deputy Premier, left Moscow for China today at the invitation of the Chinese Government.

Mr. Tsvetayev is to take part in the commissioning of the Anshan metallurgical plants in Manchuria, one of the key pieces of China's state plan.—Reuter.

False Claims By GIs Costing Government Millions

Washington, Dec. 21. The US Army plans a nation-wide crack-down next month on soldiers who have been defrauding the Government of millions of dollars through false dependency claims, it was disclosed today.

The crack-down was ordered after Chairman Dewey Short of the House Armed Services Committee told defence officials he was "shocked" at the widespread fraud uncovered in a preliminary Army survey of the so-called "Class Q" allotments for Servicemen's families.

Meanwhile, the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps plan to make their own "preliminary surveys" to see if their people are also buying the Government.

Reliable sources reported that the Navy and Marine Corps in particular had to be "probed" by Short into making such an investigation. Their contention, rejected by Short, was that Services composed entirely of volunteers would not be likely to commit a fraud problem.

Class Q allotments are made to dependents of an enlisted man when the Government is unable to provide adequate living quarters for them. Part of the payment comes from the enlisted man's pay, and the remainder is contributed by the Government.

Most of the frauds uncovered so far by the Army have centred around allotments for secondary dependents, such as parents, as opposed to primary allotments for wives and children.

To qualify for the allotment, the dependent must rely on the enlisted man for over one-half of his support. In the past, many soldiers have claimed that their parents were dependent on them for financial support when such was not the case.

On the basis of a "sampling" taken during the past several months, the Army had discovered that about 32 per cent of the allotments made within the United States are illegal.—United Press.

Big Three Strategy Drafted

Paris, Dec. 21. Senior Western diplomats here today completed the draft to be followed by their chiefs at the "Big Four" Foreign Ministers' meeting expected to be held in Berlin next month.

The general lines of the Western strategy for the Berlin conference was first laid down at the recent Bermuda meeting of President Eisenhower, Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill, French Premier Joseph Laniel and Foreign Minister Georges Bidault.

The group of diplomats working on the draft since last Wednesday were Sir Frank Roberts, Under-Secretary of State at the British Foreign Office, Mr. Douglas MacArthur, Councillor at the United States State Department, and M. Francois Seydoux, head of the Political Section of the French Foreign Ministry.

The Soviet Government, which has not yet replied to the Western powers' suggestion that the Berlin conference begin on January 4, may propose a later date.

Diplomatic quarters here believe that about a fortnight's discussion with the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr. Vyacheslav Molotov, should make it clear whether the Soviet Union is prepared to reach a genuine settlement on Germany and Austria, or whether the Russians merely agreed to a "Big Four" meeting of the European Army Treaty.—Reuter.

In Sydney to push sales, Gordon & Gotch tried a "sales stunt" employing blind men with dogs to deliver the Sydney Morning Herald.

"There were often exciting scenes of bustle in the publishing room. Sometimes in the early morning while awaiting the arrival of the papers, the dogs barked and quarreled among themselves. There were serious dog fights and the blind masters had to lash out with their sticks to restore order. Then when the pandemonium subsided, the men set off on their rounds."

Within 50 years of the foundation, Gordon & Gotch had spread to Brisbane, Queensland and South Africa where Central News Agency took over the G & G branches.

The Gordon & Gotch book tells of a number of war-time experiences as it strove to maintain the flow of British newspapers and magazines throughout the Empire and the fighting fronts.

First Marian Year Inaugurated



Gordon & Gotch: The Story Of A Century

Gordon and Gotch Ltd., which today claims to be the biggest exporters of magazines and newspapers in the world, celebrates this year its foundation 100 years ago by a 63-year old Scots owner of a small newspaper stand and his driving, energetic young partner in the bustling market-square of Melbourne.

The company has marked the centenary by the publication of "Gordon & Gotch Ltd., the story of the G & G century".

The two founders were Alexander Gordon and John Gotch, a soldier-of-fortune who had tried his hand at chemistry and dentistry, travelled to America, was shipwrecked in Mauritius, landed in Melbourne at the height of the gold rush, found one small nugget and then gored himself with a pick. He hobbled back to Melbourne and helped load them in cargo ships.

VITAL STATISTICS

Today Gordon & Gotch, which distributed Kon-Tiki and Churchill's "The Second World War," ships more than 70 per cent of Britain's total exports of magazines and newspapers. Its packing materials each year include 1,000 miles of canvas and waterproof paper, 70 miles of steel-hooping and 23,000 seals to fasten it, 44 miles of timber, 52,000 sacks and four tons of brown paper; seven tons of rope and string... scattered over the seven seas at any time of the year are at least 80 ships carrying goods from Gordon & Gotch.

The name of the Company—of most English magazines on sale in Hongkong, has spread to the four corners of the earth. A merchant in Benares once told a customer: "My friend, I can get you anything from a pin to a steamroller—from Gordon & Gotch."

Business prospered and two years later they moved into a shop in Temple Court and within the next ten years, Gotch, in complete control of the business after his older partner had retired to Scotland, expanded and opened offices in Sydney and London.

BEAT OPPPOSITION

The staff grew in London from one to 14. A number of British magazines appointed the firm its sole agent as the Melbourne organisation beat its opposition to the newstands in the city and country, time after time.

In Sydney "two of Gordon & Gotch's representatives would row out off the heads of Port Jackson to intercept incoming vessels. The newspapers and magazines were thrown overboard into the whaleboat, then the men would race back and distribute throughout New South Wales what had begun before the ship had sailed up at the harbour jetties."

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'What's His Line?' Solution
ESTIMATOR
London Express Service

MURDER TRIAL: PARDONED MAN GIVES EVIDENCE

Evidence of a plot by one gang to beat up a rival gang on the night of July 23 was given by Yau Chung-kong, driver employed at Stonecutters Island, who received the Governor's pardon in respect of offences committed by him that night, when hearing of the murder trial against Chan Kau, 26, resumed before Mr Justice C. W. Reece in the Criminal Sessions this morning.

Chan Kau is alleged to have hacked Chan Fook, a former Royal Naval Dockyard employee, to death with a chopper during a fight which took place near the junction of Sai Yeung Choi Street and Argyle Street, Mongkok. Accused is said to belong to neither side, but that he was a friend of the attacking party.

In evidence this morning, Yau Chung-kong said there were two opposing groups employed at Stonecutters. He himself belonged to Mak Hei's party.

He had known accused two months prior to the night of July 23, having met him at Mak Hei's home.

Witness said that there had been many grievances between the two parties.

He remembered the dismissal of Lee Hing who was alleged to have stolen his (witness') pass. After Lee's dismissal, witness alleged that Lee and 12 other persons beat him up at the Jordan Ferry wharf.

Witness said he decided "to return blows" to Ho Kai, Sin Leung-kai and Wong Chung, who belonged to the other party on Stonecutters.

AGREE ON PLAN

At a meeting in Tung Choi Street after work on July 23, witness said that they agreed upon a plan to give Ho Kai and his associates a beating.

They agreed to meet later at Tung Choi Street, that evening.

Accused was present when they next met, witness continued. Before leaving for Argyle Street, as planned, accused was heard to say, "You people go first!" Accused wore a white shirt and long khaki trousers.

The party then proceeded to Argyle Street and stopped in the vicinity of Ho Kai's residence.

"Some time afterwards I saw Lam Ng, Lau Yiu and deceased Ho Kai's house," witness said. "I then told my party, 'These are Ho Kai's friends!'"

Witness and his party followed the three persons towards Nathan Road.

When he and his friends were near the new Hongkong and Shanghai Bank building witness said he looked in the direction of the Sun Wah Theatre and there he saw Lau Yam-chuan (a member of his own party)—klek Lau Yiu—who fell to the ground. Lau hurriedly picked himself up and fled down the street.

KEPT WALKING

Witness said he kept on walking until he reached the junction of Argyle Street and Siu Yeung Choi Street.

"On "Si Yung Choi Street I saw a man hitting another man with an object which I could not recognise," witness said.

"He could not see clearly who the assailant was. He suspected him to be the accused, because of the similarity of dress and general physical stature."

The other man was covered with blood. He did not know who he was, but subsequently learned the victim was the deceased.

He was over 50 yards from the two men when he first saw them, said witness.

Deceased tried to support himself leaning against a pillar.

The assailant fled in the direction of Mongkok.

Witness said he became frightened and proceeded to Fa Hui Village, residence of a friend of theirs.

Members of his party were already there, including the accused, and during a conversation, one of the men (Lau Bee) told him, "Chan Kau chopped a man once," witness said.

Accused was near him, but he did not know whether accused faced the allegation or not.

Witness said he heard, "Son Wing, say to accused, 'Now, Chan Kau, you have chopped a person,'" accused replied, "It is too bad, we must pull out this skin."

Accused left shortly afterwards, after changing his white shirt into a white singlet.

CROSS-EXAMINED

In cross-examination, witness agreed that in the fight on two previous occasions, accused did not take part. Accused also was a member of his (witness') gang.

Witness said he did not see police or any other object used during the fight.

He agreed that members of his own gang wore either Hawaiian shirts or sports shirts. Their colour was either white or orange.

Only one blow was struck by the assailant, so far as he could see, witness said.

In reply to another question, witness said he did not see

Mail Notices

The latest times of posting shown below are those for registered airmail to the following countries:

Philippines, Guam, Hawaii, U.S.A., Indo-China, Thailand, Middle East, Africa, Great Britain and Europe.

By Surface

Thailand, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, December 23

By Air

Philippines, Guam, Hawaii, U.S.A., Indo-China, Malaya, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, Ceylon, India, Pakistan, Middle East, Africa, Great Britain and Europe, 8 a.m.

Japan, 8 a.m.

Formosa, 8 p.m.

By Surface

China, People's Republic, 8 a.m.

Macau, 8 a.m.

Japan, 8 a.m.

India, Pakistan, Aden, Middle East, Great Britain and Europe, 2 p.m.